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'ARAFAT MEETS WITH PALESTINIAN RESERVE FORCES

JN201556Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1500 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has met with a group of Palestinian revolution reserve forces and explained to them the latest developments in the current situation in the aftermath of the Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon. He also explained developments in the Palestinian issue on all levels.

BAGHDAD VOP QUOTES ABU DAWUD STATEMENT ON LEBANON

JN202005Y Baghdad Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] The 'Arafat gang has tried to distort the facts [about events in southern Lebanon] through false statements and lies to the newspaper AS-SAFIR. However, brother Abu Dawud, member of Fatah Revolutionary Council, made a clarifying statement in which he said that the groups which were attacked had been large groups from the Fatah organization led by him personally and not groups of troublemakers as alleged by some conspirators. He added that the groups had no other objective than fighting the Zionist enemy. The people in the villages, the Fatah fighters and other organizations know very well that our fighters have been a model of self-control and organization, and no complaint has been received concerning any one of them. These fighters have distingushed themselves during the battles of Lebanon and elsewhere, he added.

Abu Dawud said that the operation was directed against the democratic forces in Fatah so as to destroy the Palestinian fighting spirit and to subject the Palestinian arena to imperialist-Zionist-reactionary plots. Abu Dawud affirmed that the groups which were attacked had been careful to avoid bloodshed, thus frustrating those who wanted the attack to become a massacre.

It is noteworthy that some sincere groups refused to abide by the orders to attack the Fatah men. Latest reports say that a general state of mobilization prevails in the Palestinian arena and that Fatah cadres and bases are demanding the release of the detainees. Meanwhile, various revolutionary forces are moving to stop this dangerous escalation.

Reports from Beirut say that a state of alert continues in various Lebanese areas and in Beirut among the revolutionary forces.

Abu al-Hawl gangs this morning broke into some houses in An-Na'imah area with the aim of creating panic among the citizens. The gangs, which came in six cars, also searched several houses.

Brother Abu Salih has also issued a statement condemning this criminal operation perpetrated by 'Arafat. The rejection front has issued a statement condeming the provocations which lead to intra-Palestinian fighting. The revolutionary committees have also issued a statement condemning the treacherous attack.

ARAB BANK BOARD OF GOVERNORS CONCLUDES MEETING

JN201442Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1320 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 20 April--The fourth session of the Board of Governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, which was opened yesterday by Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, concluded in Riyadh at noon today.

During this meeting the board reviewed the bank's activities during the past year and its future working plans. It also discussed the report on this subject submitted by Arab Bank President Dr ash-Shazili al-'Ayyari.

Delegations representing 18 arab states on the minister of finance and economy level, as well as central bank governors, participated in the meeting.

RESOLUTION OF CONFRONTATION FRONT INFORMATION MINISTERS

LD192202Y Algiers APS in French 1100 GMT 19 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Algiers--The conference of the information ministers of the Arab resistance front [front Arabe de la resistance] held in Algiers on 17 and 18 April 1978 adopted the following resolution:

In accordance with the decisions made within the framework of the action plan for the information field adopted by the second summit conference of the Arab resistance front held in Algiers on 2, 3 and 4 February 1978;

In implementation of the resolutions adopted by the ministers of foreign affairs and defense of the countries of the Arab resistance front at their conference held in Damascus on 19 and 20 March 1978;

The ministers of information of the Arab resistance front held a conference in Algiers on 17 and 18 April 1978 and made the following decisions:

I. Press Agencies

1. To establish permanent contacts among the press agencies of the countries of the Arab resistance front and make immediate efforts to set up information networks among these agencies and eventually achieve more efficient cooperation in the field of radio information and photography.
2. To set up an office of each press agency in the capitals of the front member countries. The offices will publish information bulletins for organizations, enterprises and private individuals.
3. To give these offices all technical and administrative facilities necessary to fulfill their tasks.
4. To strengthen those press agencies which do not have sufficient means at their disposal in order to enable them to achieve the front's goals in the information field.
5. To make use of news transmitted by the press agencies of the countries of the Arab resistance front and by the Palestinian news agency WAFA and to use these agencies for transmitting all information concerning the front members.

II. Radio and Television

1. To exchange television news items concerning everyday activities in the front countries.
2. To develop exchanges among the radio and television offices in the front member countries in the field of national production.
3. To give particular emphasis to the production of television and radio programs devoted to the Palestinian resistance movement.

4. To produce periodically a joint radio program as the voice of the Arab resistance front.
5. To produce television programs in coproduction with other front countries and insure that they are broadcast in member countries.
6. To produce television documentary films emphasising the resistance of the Arab peoples in the occupied terroritories, as well as the realities of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the racist and expansionist character of the Zionist movement.
7. To exchange technical knowledge in the field of radio and television and work for coordination in radio frequencies and telecommunications by means of satellites.

III. Publications

1. To publish and distribute in the member countries the most important publications, papers, magazines and books appearing in these countries and eliminate all obstacles and difficulties hindering exchanges.
2. To develop the PLO research center and the Institute for Palestinian Studies in Damascus.
3. To publish pamphlets in foreign languages explaining the aims of the front as well as its position on various issues, with the parties concerned in the front supervising the publication.

IV. Film Industry

1. To develop film production in coproduction with the front countries and organize an exchange of films.
2. To give priority to films produced in the front member countries.

V. Conferences

1. To organize a series of international meetings with international writers and journalists known for their friendly attitude to the Arab cause and the Palestinian resistance.
2. To send joint information missions to nonalined, Third World and other friendly countries in order to explain the correctness of the front's position on topical national issues such as the new situation in southern Lebanon.
3. To exchange delegations representing the information sector and mass organizations among front countries, as well as workers organizations and trade unions in other foreign countries.
4. To invite the front members to hold a conference for progressive intellectuals and Arab nationalists devoted to the Arab liberation movement under the present circumstances. The host country will organize a preparatory committee so that the conference can be held in 1978. Other member countries will give any help judged necessary by the preparatory committee.
5. To organize on 5 June 1978 a week of solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in the occupied territories.
6. To organize cultural weeks in the front countries in order to deepen the knowledge of the cultural life in those countries.
7. To organize a cultural festival of the front countries.
8. To hold periodic meetings of managers of press agencies, chief editors of daily papers, leaders of writers unions and managers of film industry in the front countries in order to develop cooperation and harmonize positions. The chief editors will meet in Damascus, the writers union in Tripoli, the managers of film industry in Algiers and the managers of press agencies in Aden.

9. To support Egyptian progressive intellectuals struggling to make the voice of Egyptian patriotism heard.
10. To emphasize the struggle of the people of Western Sahara for their right to be independent, laying particular emphasis in the information field on the struggle of African peoples.

AL-AHRAM REPORTS DEVELOPMENTS IN ARAB ARMS INDUSTRY

LD201742Y Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 18 Apr 78 pp 1, 10 LD

[Text] A major development in the field of manufacturing arms and military equipment in the four founder countries of the Arab Organization for Industrialization--Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Qatar--is expected to take place in the coming period. The development involves the manufacturing of Mirage fighter-bomber planes and advanced Alpha jet training planes in cooperation with France and West Germany.

The AL-AHRAM military correspondent has learned that the development also involves the manufacture of air-to-air and air-to-ground Matra missiles and sophisticated electronic military equipment in cooperation with the French Dassault-Breuguet, Thompson and Matra companies within the framework of the cooperation protocol which Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamesi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, signed in Paris with French Defense Minister Yvon Bourges in the presence of Dr Ashraf Marwan, chairman of the organization.

With regard to the Alpha jet trainer, the talks are still subject to agreement by the West German side to manufacture this plane in Cairo.

The agreement with the Thompson company is aimed at establishing a joint company for the production of military electronic equipment. It has actually been decided that Saudi Arabia will be the location for such an industry. The third agreement, with the Matra company, is aimed at establishing a joint industry for the manufacture of Matra air-to-air and air-to-ground missiles, with which Mirage planes are armed. Under the agreement, the French company will undertake the training of Egyptian and Arab technicians and technical cadres.

Earlier the organization concluded an agreement with the American General Motors Corporation for the production of military jeeps and two similar agreements with the British Rolls-Royce and Westland companies for the manufacture of the Lynx helicopter. A fourth agreement was signed with the British Air Corporation for the production of the Swingfire antitank missile.

PLO SPOKESMAN DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN AN-NABATIYAH INCIDENT

NC211135Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1018 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 21 April--PLO Chief UN Delegate Basil 'Aql has affirmed that the Palestinian command had nothing to do with yesterday's incident in the An-Nabatiyah barracks in southern Lebanon. Following a meeting with Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss last night, 'Aql said: Generally speaking, we want to and are concerned to--as was affirmed by Yasir 'Arafat during his meeting with Waldheim--facilitate the task of the legitimate authority in the south.

He added: It is impossible for a Palestinian to depart from this course, to place obstacles in the way of the legitimate authority and, consequently, to provide justification for the continuation of the occupation.

At a meeting which lasted till early today, the joint command of the Nationalist Movement and the Palestinian resistance discussed the implications of the An-Nabatiyah barracks incident.

PALESTINIAN GROUPS MEETING TO RESOLVE DIFFERENCES

NC2211336Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1052 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Beirut, 21 April--A responsible Palestinian source today expressed confidence that Fatah leaders will be able to resolve the problems which have recently arisen within Fatah. Over the past 3 days, developments related to these problems have threatened to become aggravated and to escalate.

The source said that the Fatah leaders "can never permit anyone to involve them in an internal conflict from which only the enemies of the revolution will benefit." The source pointed to the continuous meetings over the past 2 days aimed at tackling some of the problems which had been created by the military measures recently taken by Fatah.

The source said: All are anxious to resort to the method of democratic dialog to surmount this crisis and to avoid peripheral battles at this critical stage.

The source noted that contacts are underway between two groups. The first group represents the military command and includes Yasir 'Arafat and Abu Jihad, Abu Walid and Abu al-Hawl. The second group includes Abu Salih, Abu Dawud, Majid Abu Sharar, Naji 'Allush, Colonel Abu Musa and Abu Khalid.

According to well-informed sources, the crisis began when Abu Dawud defied the decision to adhere to the cease-fire in southern Lebanon and sent groups to operate behind the combat lines. However, Abu Jihad arrested these groups and returned them to Beirut. It was reported that this action prompted clashes which claimed a number of victims in the Palestinian camps. These clashes were followed by a crisis, which was made even more pronounced by the statements made by Abu Salih and Abu Dawud.

Meanwhile, "the military command" has called for handling the situation in a manner removed from the clamor of the information media and the attempts to outbid each other.

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER LEAVES FOR ISLAMIC CONFERENCE

JN210921Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Manama, 21 April--Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah this morning left for Dakar at the head of a delegation to attend the Ninth Islamic Conference which will be held there during the period 24-28 April.

The conference will discuss a number of important political subjects, such as Islamic solidarity, the recovery of Jerusalem from Israeli occupation, the Middle East issue and the question of Islamic minorities in the world. The conference will also discuss the creation of nuclear-free zones, the strengthening of the security of non-nuclear countries, a number of economic and social questions connected with the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic news agency, the organization of Islamic radio stations and the strengthening of economic and commercial cooperation among Islamic countries.

The preparatory meetings of the conference are scheduled to begin on Saturday and will be attended by representatives of Islamic countries' foreign ministers.

KUWAIT

OIL MINISTER NONCOMMITTAL ON DOLLAR, OIL PRICES

LD201735Y Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 19 Apr 78 pp 1, 17 LD

[Text] The petroleum affairs editor writes: Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah has avoided revealing his cards regarding Kuwait's plans concerning the dollar and oil prices. He was content to blame the United States for the current dollar crisis.

In an international telephone interview by the BBC, in which a number of leading world economists took part, questions were also put to the oil ministers of OPEC countries. In replying to the questions, Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah deliberately avoided revealing his cards, particularly since the OPEC extraordinary conference is due to be held on 6 May.

The minister of oil went to the radio station yesterday to give his answers by telephone in a live broadcast. Those who put the questions included Pierre Paul Schweitzer, former IMF director; Alan Greenspan, chief economic adviser of former President Gerald Ford; and Masaru Yoshiotomu, senior economic adviser at the Japanese Economic Planning Ministry. [names and titles as published]

In the radio interview Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah stressed the need to draw a distinction between the present dollar state in the world markets and the state of the U.S. economy. He said that the dollar problems are due to the present world monetary system and its contradictions, particularly the contradictions between international and local considerations of the U.S. currency. The oil minister said that reducing the U.S. trade deficit or curbing the Japanese surplus, as being currently proposed, will only have a limited effect. The minister called for a drastic change in the world monetary system through the establishment of an international monetary unit that would replace the dollar gradually. He said that despite the fact that Kuwait is pursuing an investment policy of diversifying currencies, it is, like the rest of the oil countries, incurring heavy losses in its revenues because of the drop in the dollar.

AS-SIYASAH ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI PRINCIPLES

NC191042Y Doha QNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 19 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Kuwait, 19 April--The Kuwaiti paper AS-SIYASAH says today that the declaration of principles between Egypt and Israel will be issued early next month in accordance with U.S. guarantees prepared after the recent visits of Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to the United States and of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan to Washington.

The paper adds that the visit of U.S. emissary Alfred Atherton to the area, which will begin at the end of this week, follows the completion of the drafting of this declaration, which provides for Israeli withdrawal from Sinai, the Golan Heights and the West Bank. This withdrawal, the paper says, is subject to conditions including the participation of Syria and Jordan in the current negotiations between Egypt and Israel, even if they are not continuous.

Quoting political circles, AS-SIHASAH refers to a plan which has been submitted to the various parties in the Middle East aiming at holding a general conference in Romania to be attended by the Arab states concerned, the PLO and Israel as a substitute to UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim's plan on holding an international conference in Geneva or New York.

SAUDI ARABIA

SOVIET MISSILE BOATS REPORTEDLY ACQUIRED

LD210905Y London DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 21 Apr 78 p 6 LD

[Text] Saudi Arabia may have acquired three Russian-built OSA class fast-missile boats. Western experts say the Saudis are among eight Middle East countries to receive warships from Russia.

The OSA class 200-ton boats carry four Styx missiles with a range against surface targets of 25 miles. Missiles of this type, in 1968, sank the Israeli destroyer Eilath and were also used by the Egyptian and Syrian navies in the 1973 war with Israel.

The choice of Russian-built warships by Saudi Arabia is curious in view of the Saudis' otherwise complete reliance on American-built ships for their small but expanding navy. It is unlikely, moreover, that the craft were formerly in service with the Egyptian Navy, which once operated 10 OSA class ships.

PLANNING MINISTER RETURNS FROM TEHERAN

JN201323Y Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1220 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Riyadh, 20 April--Planning Minister His Highness Shaykh Hisham Nazir returned to Riyadh this afternoon from Iran after a 24-hour visit to Teheran.

YEMEN--YAR

ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WITH USSR SIGNED

JN201445Y Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1410 GMT 20 April 78 JN

[Text] San'a', 20 April--Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab Jubayli, YAR minister of economy, today signed an agreement with the economic adviser of the Soviet Embassy in San'a'. According to this agreement, the YAR will be granted a loan of $38,326,000 to be used to expand the capacity of a Yemeni cement factory by 200,000 tons annually.

RADIO COMMENTS ON NEW U.S. MOVES IN MIDDLE EAST

NC2014577 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Muhammad Sharaf commentary: "Awaiting the Results of the New U.S. Move for Peace in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] According to a U.S. official spokesman the day before yesterday, the United States is currently holding consultations to determine how the Middle East peace process can best be reactivated. Meanwhile, U.S. roving Ambassador Alfred Atherton will begin a quick round of talks in both Egypt and Israel soon. He is expected to meet with President as-Sadat on Sunday. He will then go to Israel and from there to Washington.

This U.S. move is taking place at a time when Israel is launching a new diplomatic campaign on the basis of the statement Begin's government issued a few days ago in which it tried to insinuate that a change has occurred in its position regarding Security Council Resolution 242. The Egyptian foreign minister has described the statement as a mere continuation of Israel's policy of maneuvering and playing with words in an attempt to hide its insistence on sticking to wornout concepts. The Egyptian foreign minister also said that Israel must announce its readiness to go along with the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement based on complete withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied in 1967 and recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

What is notable is the report that, while Israel is carrying out this blatant maneuver, it has resumed work in one of the settlements on Jordan's West Bank as well as in four settlements in Egyptian Sinai.

We do not wish to anticipate events with regard to the fresh consultations the United States is holding to reactivate the peace efforts in the Middle East, but one important fact must be taken into account: Israel is trying to confuse matters in its new diplomatic and propaganda campaign. It is also trying to push the peace efforts into peripheral labyrinths with the sole purpose of wasting more and more time.

Despite the fact that Israel's recent occupation of southern Lebanon is part of its comprehensive plan for the Middle East, this occupation cannot be linked with the question of the Arab territories that were occupied through the 1967 Israeli aggression. Ending Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon and its complete withdrawal from Lebanese territory must be implemented immediately, according to Security Council Resolution 425.

We are fully confident that the United States is clearly aware of all the dimensions of the new Israeli maneuver, represented by the statement issued by the Israeli cabinet on its so-called acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242 as a basis for Middle East negotiations. By all this, we mean to say that the developments and events have begun to make it incombent upon U.S. President Carter's administration to adopt decisive stands in a manner that will definitely bar the way to Israel's maneuvers and time-wasting attempts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH CALLS FOR ARAB SUMMIT ON LEBANON

NC2107302 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Serious Dimensions of the Situation in Lebanon," the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH asks whether the Arab tragedy in Lebanon will enter a new chapter more dangerous than the present one in which Israel is occupying southern Lebanon and in which partition has become or is about to become a fait accompli.

The newspaper says the clouds of civil war are gathering over Lebanon. Should a war break out, it will be more devastating than the previous round of civil fighting which began in April 1975 and which lasted about 2 years. The enemies of the Arabs were the only winners in that round of fighting.

Therefore, it adds, the Lebanese issue deserves the closest Arab attention. It also deserves joint Arab action.

Concluding its comment, AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that if the first round of the Lebanese civil war was stopped after a limited Arab summit conference was held in Riyadh--which was followed by a full-scale Arab summit conference in Cairo--the situation now is more dangerous and requires an early Arab summit conference, for which several calls have already been made. It would even be better if the Arab kings and presidents meet in Lebanon to see for themselves the extent of the catastrophe in order to stop it before it spreads and engulfs all the Arabs.

AL-AHRAM WRITER VIEWS ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF S. LEBANON

LD2011002 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 16 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Ahmad Baha' ad-Din article: "Will Israel Evacuate Southern Lebanon?"]

[Excerpts] The big question now is: Will Israel withdraw or not withdraw from southern Lebanon?

By posing the big question I do not mean that it is the most important question. Israel is occupying large areas in other Arab countries which are members of the United Nations and with recognized borders: Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Lebanon has only been added to the list. This, as I said in previous articles, was expected and certainly anticipated. Therefore, when it happened it was no surprise to either Arab opinion or Lebanon itself, nor the Palestinians either.

Nor do I mean that we should forget the rest of the previously occupied territories and remember only the occupation of southern Lebanon, for this is one of the objectives of the new invasion--to make the world focus its attention on the latest conquest so that past invasions will become old and probably forgotten.

I recall here a speech by former Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban from the UN rostrum at one of the General Assembly sessions before 1973 at which I was present.

There was nothing interesting in the speech except Eban's great skill in playing with words. But what stuck in my mind was what he said at the conclusion of his speech in a mixed tone of threat and ridicule: "I beg my colleagues heads of Arab delegations not to hasten to reply to my speech automatically now for the answer, of course, would be the usual rejection. I beg them to think until tomorrow or the next day before exercising their right to respond. In 1949 they demanded the partitioning borders which were offered to them previously. In 1956 they demanded the 1948 borders and in 1967, the 1956 borders. I am afraid that the day will come when they will demand the 4 June 1967 borders!"

Yes, this was what Eban said from the UN rostrum and this has been Israel's policy. One reason for Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon is to preoccupy the Arabs and the world with demanding it to withdraw from the latest land it occupied. In this way previous demands will be relegated to secondary importance.

When I emphasize the importance of withdrawal from southern Lebanon, therefore, I do so with the condition that it should not make us forget the struggle for other causes. I also do so because it is the latest morsel that Israel has bitten off from the Arab body and because of the significance of this action. The Israelis committed this barbarism and used banned weapons as they were negotiating peace.

Therefore, I consider it important and necessary to concentrate on this point and to work by every means to bring about an urgent and complete withdrawal from southern Lebanon. This calls for concerted efforts by all the Arab countries without exception.

I have no doubt that when Israel attacked southern Lebanon it informed the United States that it was launching a reprisal operation in order to "finish off" the resistance, after which it would withdraw. The sequence of events shows that the United States gave Israel just enough time to achieve that purpose.

But there is no doubt that Israel is prepared to cheat the whole world, including the United States. Israel has entered Lebanon and sill not leave unless a crushing force compels it to do so. It finds an explanation for everything.

If, for example, Israel wants 10 km from Lebanon, then it will take 15. Even leading American newspapers raised their brows in surprise, not because of the invasion, but Israel went beyond the lines at which it was supposed to stop.

The reason is that Israel knows that it is going to face pressure to withdraw and, therefore, will show its good will by withdrawing from the supposedly excessive 5 km. This, it will show that it has withdrawn and been flexible but in fact it will return to the same line it wanted to hold in the first place.

Nevertheless, an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon is possible because, contrary to previous cases, the whole world is against Israel. It is also possible because the United States felt that it has been cheated and, therefore, hastened to send UN forces more powerful than usual and so embarass Israel. Some have even suggested giving the UN forces extraordinary power.

But the situation demands many things from the Arabs, the most of them that the Arab countries unanimously agree on this point and concentrate their effort on it, regardless of their differences on other subjects.

The situation also calls on the Palestinians, who bore the brunt alone, to realize that Israel's existence in southern Lebanon will not benefit them in the least and cannot be countered by killing 1, 10, or 100 Israeli soldiers. War is advance and retreat, defense and attack. It is not seeking death at any cost. The revolutionaries must not get angry at what I am saying because what I say is the realization of the plot being hatched against them and the great difficulties that a revolution like theirs is facing. They must facilitate the task of the UN force at this stage as much as they can so that Israel can find no excuse to remain.

AL-JAMASI INSPECTS ARMED FORCES IN RED SEA AREA

NC201947Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 20 April--Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and minister of war and war production, has spent 4 days in the Red Sea military area inspecting the training activity of the forces in Al-Ghurdaqah, Safajah, Ra's Gharib and Az-za'Faran. He also inspected the plans used by these forces for executing their tasks.

During his tour, which ended this afternoon, General al-Jamasi held meetings with units and formations in the area. He discussed the dimensions of the current situation and future possibilities. He declared that the armed forces are actively working to improve. He stressed that training must be linked with reality, with concern for the troops and their arms, and with skillful deployment of the troops.

General al-Jamasi also affirmed the importance of adhering to traditional military rules and military discipline. He said this is a basic factor which reflects the quality of the fighting men. He noted the significance of good examples set by commanders at all levels.

At a meeting last night attended by the governor of Al-Bahr al-Ahmar Governorate, Major General 'Uthman, area commander Maj Gen Ahmad 'Abd al-Ghaffar Hijazi and representatives of appropriate departments, General al-Jamasi discussed ways of utilizing young people of the Al-Bushariyah and Al-'Abbadiyah tribes as volunteers in the armed forces.

At this meeting General al-Jamasi decided to lift restrictions on fishing in the area and to reopen the main roads to encourage tourism.

General al-Jamasi's tour in the Red Sea military area began Monday morning. On his arrival at the area command, the commander gave him a report affirming that the forces in the area are prepared to perform their tasks.

LEADERS COMMENT ON NEWLY FORMED CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL

JN2021447 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has said that the formation of the National Consultative Council came at the suggestion of His Majesty King Husayn and from his insistence on the need for the citizens to share responsibility in this country and to participate with the government in everything concerning the general policy of the homeland.

Speaking to Jordan radio and television tonight, the prime minister pointed out that the formation of the National Consultative Council does not conflict with any provision of the constitution. The council does not replace the House of Representatives.

The prime minister said that the government strongly adheres to the supremacy of the law, the spirit of the constitution and the democratic values which are firmly rooted in the Jordanian entity. He added that the government has exerted great efforts in forming this council so it will be truly representative of all factions and sectors of the population and worthy of assuming its responsibility.

Badran said that the government will refer all bills and public matters to the National Consultative Council for discussion. It is up to the council to conduct its discussion scientifically, objectively and positively in the interests of the nation and the homeland.

The prime minister asserted that the government will fully cooperate with the council in the interests of democracy and everyone's participation in national issues.

Also speaking on radio and television, National Consultative Council Speaker Ahmad al-Lawzi announced that the council will hold its first session next week under the patronage of His Majesty King Husayn. He said that during its first session, the council will form a legal committee with the task of drawing up the bylaws and an administrative scheme for the work of the committees.

Al-Lawzi added: The principle of consultation and democracy is inherent in our beliefs and the Jordanian entity because this country was founded on the firm bases of democracy and constitutionality.

Al-Lawzi explained that due to the impossibility of holding general elections in Jordan under the conditions of occupation, His Majesty King Husayn has always been thinking of giving the citizens a role in the government process.

Al-Lawzi said that the National Consultative Council law is clear and frank in defining the council's duties, which are to study, debate, express opinion, share in the entire responsibility and indicate the course to be followed in pooling all efforts and resources so this country can fulfill its obligations toward itself and the nation.

Regarding the council's bylaws, Al-Lawzi said: Jordan already has firmly rooted traditions in parliamentary constitutional life. Therefore, the path is already paved for the National Consultative Council. The bylaws of the various government institutions and the Senate are a rich resource to draw on and benefit from.

Also speaking in the same interview with Jordan radio and television, Chief of the Royal Hashemite Court Sharif 'Abd al-Hamid Sharaf said that there is no constitutional crisis in Jordan. What Jordan has been suffering from is the disruption of the elected parliamentary institution. As for constitutionality, it has continued in this country since its foundation.

Sharif Sharaf added: The problem is that the fall of the West Bank, the circumstances of the occupation and developments on the Arab and Palestinian levels have all produced a vacuum in parliamentary political life. Thus, the leadership in this country has continued to search for a formula to preserve public participation in shouldering the responsibilities of running the country.

Sharif Sharaf continued: Since it was impossible to continue in this vacuum, His Majesty King Husayn decided that it was essential to find a formula for public participation and consultation. Thus, he asked the government to adopt a suitable formula to insure dialog and participation in legislative matters.

Regarding the formation of the National Consultative Council and the Jordanian moves on the pan-Arab level, Sharif Sharaf said: It is possible to say that the two things are related because, in both cases, the Jordanian leadership has been aware of the need to reorganize our forces to face the dangers threatening both Jordan and the Arab world. It was these dangers which prompted the moves in recent weeks and the Jordanian call for a summit conference. The present circumstances constitute an impending danger requiring the Arab nation to act wisely and systematically away from the sideshows dominating Arab relations. Furthermore, the establishment of a responsible political institution is an element of strength in any country.

Asked if the establishment of the National Consultative Council is a prelude toward building other political institutions, and also whether there is any truth in the reports that parties will be formed within the framework of a national charter, Sharif Sharaf said: The parties formula is not the only one that has proved successful in the Arab homeland and the Third World. Some people even say that the multiparty experiment has not succeeded in many or most countries of the Third World.

Sharif Sharaf said: When His Majesty King Husayn asked the government to draft the provisional law for the National Consultative Council, he stressed that the council will not replace complete parliamentary life. This life will be restored when conditions permit and after all obstacles have been removed.

NEW SENATORS APPOINTED BY ROYAL DECREE

JN201923Y Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] A royal decree was issued today appointing the following as members of the Senate: Mudar Badran, Sa'd Jum'ah, Zayd ar-Rifa'i and Sa'ud al-Qadi.

CABINET TRANSFERS AMBASSADORS, PENSIONS OFF OFFICIALS

JN201613Y Amman AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Apr 78 p 1 JN

[Text] Amman--In a session at noon yesterday presided over by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, the cabinet decided to transfer the following ambassadors back to Amman as of 1 May 1978:

Salah Abu Zayd, ambassador to the United Kingdom; Ibrahim 'Izz ad-Din, ambassador to the FRG; Dhiyab al-'Uran, ambassador to Iraq; Walid ad-Durra, charge d'affaires in Brussels; and Hisham Rushdi as-Shawwa, ambassador to Chile. The cabinet also decided that the following senior state employees will be pensioned off:

Jawdat al-Muhaysin, ambassador to Qatar; 'Ali al-Bashir, governor of Amman; Sa'id al-Ghazzawi, under secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture; and Muhammad Khattab ash-Sharari, director of education of Ma'an Governorate. The cabinet also accepted the resignation of Hammad 'Ali al-Ma'ayitah, mayor of Adir.

JORDAN, IRAQ SIGN MINUTES ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION TALKS

JN201724Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1555 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 20 April--The minutes of the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi Economic Committee were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade at noon today.

The minutes cover increasing the volume of trade between the two by 2 million Jordanian dinars to 10 million Jordanian dinars to be divided equally between them and increasing the quotas for the Jordanian Trade Center in Baghdad and the Iraqi Trade Center in Amman by 750,000 Jordanian dinars to 1.75 million Jordanian dinars each. The minutes were signed by industry and trade under secretaries of the two countries.

The minutes also stress the need to remove all obstacles hindering trade between the two countries and to encourage the importation of Iraqi industrial and agricultural goods via the port of Aqaba.

In speeches delivered on the occasion by Dr Hashim ad-Dabbas, under secretary in the Ministry of Industry and Trade and head of the Jordanian delegation, and Mahdi Muhsin 'Awdah, under secretary in the Iraqi Ministry of Industry and Minerals, the two officials stressed hope that economic relations between the two countries will be an example for other Arab countries and will lead to comprehensive Arab economic unity. The two sides also hope that the near future will bring a large increase in the volume of trade between the two countries.

The Iraqi economic delegation will leave Amman for Baghdad tomorrow morning.

TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL AID GRANTED BY FRG

JN202156Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] The minutes of the 17-20 April meetings between the Government of Jordan and the FRG Government on German technical and financial aid to Jordan for this year were signed at the National Planning Council tonight. The Jordanian and German sides agreed that the FRG Government will give technical and financial aid to Jordan amounting to DM81.2 million. Part of this aid has been allocated to financing and implementing the second phase of the projects of the Jordan Valley Authority, the second phase of the Aqaba electricity project, the industrial city project, backing the Industrial Development Bank and completing the grain mill project. There are also two loans to the Jordan Cooperative Organization and the Agricultural Credit Corporation.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA PREMIER ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN181258Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, at noon today received Donald Allan Dunstan, prime minister of the State of South Australia, and the delegation accompanying him.

Dunstan arrived in Amman this morning on a 5-day visit to Jordan, during which he will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran and a number of high-ranking officials.

SARKIS CONTINUES CONSULTATIONS TO FORM CABINET

JN210901Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 21 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 April--Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis continued his consultations today to form a new cabinet to succeed the outgoing cabinet of Dr Salim al-Huss. Sources close to the president said that President Sarkis will likely bypass tradition in his consultations by submitting to the deputies the broad lines of the plan of action of the forthcoming cabinet and the issues which the new government should tackle.

PARLIAMENTARY MEETING HELD; COMMITTEE FORMED

NC201725Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Within the context of the current parliamentary consultations to review the present situation in the country, representatives of parliamentary blocs led by Speaker Kamil al-As'ad today resumed the discussion of the situation, the fateful issues and the resignation of the government of Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. A parliamentary meeting was held at 1030 today in Mansur Palace. The meeting lasted until 1400.

The conferees agreed to organize a committee under the chairmanship of Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and including the following deputies: former President Camille Sham'un, former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, former Prime Minister Rashid as-Sulh, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil, Shaykh Bahij Taqiy ad-Din, Kazim al-Khalil, Nasr al-Ma'luf, Khatchig Babikyan, Hasan ar-Rifa'i and August Bakhus. The committee will begin its work tomorrow at 1000 in Mansur Palace.

After the meeting Speaker Kamil al-As'ad told a press conference that the parliamentary discussions which began Tuesday were concluded at today's meeting. Basic issues were discussed objectively, courageously, frankly and impartially.

Concerning the government's resignation, Speaker al-As'ad said: The conferees unanimously agreed to support legality and the state in its continuous march to achieve sovereignty and security. The next government must have the capability and resources, including a clear plan for tackling the crisis, to achieve its goals by imposing sovereignty and giving the legal authority the instruments necessary to safeguard the homeland's interest.

Speaker Kamil al-As'ad this afternoon sent telegrams inviting deputies to attend a session at 1000 on 24 April to study and approve a bill for the 1978 budget.

OFFICIALS COMMENT ON REASONS FOR CABINET RESIGNATION

Al-Huss Comments

NC201327Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpt] At 1230 today Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss met with Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus. They discussed current political and security affairs in light of the new developments. At the end of the meeting Prime Minister al-Huss said in reply to a question: Contrary to what is being said, the resignation of the cabinet was the result of a common understanding and conviction between President Sarkis and his brother ministers. What is being said is that the resignation was the result of differences inside the government, particularly between Mr Fu'ad Butrus and me. It is not true.

Butrus Comments

JN201307Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 April--Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has declared that his resignation came as a result of an understanding and joint conviction with the head of the state and the members of the cabinet, not as a result of differences within the cabinet. In statements he made today Al-Huss said that the reason for the resignation was not owing to differences within the cabinet.

On the other hand, Lebanese Foreign and Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus, the only politician in the outgoing cabinet, said that the cabinet resignation was dictated by the public interest, and perhaps the resignation might push the concerned sides toward political reconciliation.

It will be recalled that there were reports today that the differences between the prime minister and the foreign minister on the major issues were behind the resignation.

Walid Junblatt Comments

JN202054Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1845 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 April--Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party, has stated that the resignation of the government of Dr Salim al-Huss came after a silent crisis involving the leaders for some time. Junblatt said in a statement this evening that this crisis resulted from the complete bias of some circles in authority toward the viewpoint of one side. He pointed out that on more than one occasion this official prejudice turned the state into a tool for the Lebanese front and a rostrum from which the front could express opinions on important affairs.

Junblatt expressed surprise that President Sarkis would approve of a maneuver which brings forces to power which insist on dividing the country. These forces want to attain the status of legitimacy in order to conspire against the legitimate power itself. He then called on the nationalist public opinion to support a government chaired by a person who represents the national aspirations and reflects the real balance in matters related to the fateful issues, the foremost of which is the army.

Junblatt then said that the resignation of the Al-Huss government has placed the country on the crossroads of decisive political choices and fateful decisions which do not allow procrastination or postponement. He added that the all-pervasive anxiety with which the nationalist quarters received this resignation is owing to the depth of the political crisis which this resignation has exposed.

The main reason for this anxiety, he explained, is that the resignation has led the political situation into a difficult crisis, the results of which we cannot now predict. He stressed that the current division in opinion and the inflexibility as shown by the quarters which are playing with the unity of the country make it quite difficult to imagine the possibility of forming a cabinet.

SARKIS RECEIVES SHAM'UN, APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

NC201647Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] President Ilyas Sarkis has resumed his consultations on the formation of a new government. At 1730 today he received former President Camille Sham'un.

At 1700 President Sarkis received the dean of the diplomatic corps, Apostolic Nuncio Alfredo Bruniera, who stated later that he delivered a written message to President Sarkis from Pope Paul VI. The apostolic nuncio said he and the president discussed the current situation and the possibility of reaching a solution which could restore calm and stability, enabling Lebanon to return to normal.

AL-HUSS MEETS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR PARKER

JN2013l9Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1252 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 April--The prime minister of the outgoing Lebanese Cabinet, Dr Salim al-Huss, met here today with U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Richard Parker. Parker said after the meeting that he discussed with Dr al-Huss the situation in southern Lebanon and the implementation of Security Council Resolution No 425. He added that he asked al-Huss about the reasons for the resignation of the Lebanese Cabinet.

HUSAYN MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT SARKIS REPORTED

JN2013O4Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis has welcomed His Majesty King Husayn's call to convene an Arab summit conference to face the dangers and challenges threatening the Arab nation. During his meeting with Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin in Beirut this morning, President Sarkis said that the Jordanian working paper, which includes a detailed explanation of the dangers threatening the Arab homeland, is aimed at restoring Arab solidarity and at unifying the Arab stand in these delicate circumstances. He said that Lebanon supports Jordan's positive steps for the cohesion of the Arab nation and restoration of Arab solidarity.

President Sarkis praised the efforts being made by King Husayn for the sake of Arab issues.

Al-Muhaysin told a JNA correspondent in Beirut that he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to Lebanese President Ilyas Sarkis concerning a Jordanian working paper and proposals, including a detailed explanation of the dangers threatening all parts of the Arab homeland, Jordanian concepts and means to face all dangers at the current stage within the framework of a unified Arab action that bypasses differences, concentrates on confronting Zionist expansionist plans and seeks to pool all Arab economic, military, information and diplomatic resources to achieve this aim and to emerge from the impasse of the Arab situation.

PIERRE AL-JUMAYYIL CRITICIZES PALESTINIAN PRESENCE

LD190835Y Paris FRANCE-SOIR in French 19 Apr 78 p 5 LD

[Gabriel Dardaud undated Beirut interview with Pierre al-Jumayyil, leader of the Lebanese Christians: "Pierre al-Jumayyil: 'Lebanon Is a Den of Criminals'"]

[Text] "For Lebanon, the Palestinians are problem number one. They have been causing our unhappiness and their own for 30 years. We saw them come in 1948: 140,000 refugees whom we then greeted fraternally. We installed them, to help them better, right on the edges of our cities. In our country's atmosphere of total liberty, they benefited from all facilities for pleading their case before the whole world and presenting it in the best light.

"In this political action they had the support of the immense Lebanese immigrant population in America, Africa and Europe. Lebanese immigrants everywhere spontaneously appointed themselves the defenders of the Palestinians.

"In 1967 the number of refugees in our country exceeded 300,000. It has never stopped going up. The proof of the favored treatment all the Lebanese gave them is that they surged to our country from all the others in the region. Today there are half a million of them. Some 20,000 of them are under arms and they occupy one-fifth of our national territory. These figures speak for themselves.

"In 1948 the Lebanon which welcomed them was a young state, independent for only 5 years. Its institutions, based on coexistence between the Christian and Moslem communities, were, so to speak, being 'broken in.'

"They were fragile and had not yet undergone the test of time. Little by little we saw dangerous Palestinian currents developing, seeking to undermine Lebanese national understanding by playing first on political tendencies, then on religious differences. The harmonious development of our domestic policy was constantly disturbed as a result.

"Even more seriously, the tolerance which Lebanon displayed with respect to the Palestinians disturbed relations with certain Arab countries in the region, and the attacks which armed Palestinian groups directed against Israel from our territory provoked reprisals of which the Lebanese were the innocent victims.

"In spite of ourselves we have given up part of our sovereignty to political groups, which are indeed Palestinian, but which, having no cohesion among themselves, have ended up by putting themselves at the service of ideology and international subversive movements that have nothing to do with Palestinian liberation.

"They have made our Lebanon the den and the refuge of the terrorists and criminals of the whole world. They have driven us, under the pressure and the threats of certain Arab countries, to accept what has been called 'the Cairo Agreement' which would have given them the right to establish themselves in our country, thus limiting our national sovereignty.

"These agreements were concluded on 3 November 1969 under the auspices of President 'Abd an-Nasir. The Lebanese Phalangists then opposed this surrender of our state's fundamental rights. Subsequent events have shown to what extent we are right to condemn alleged agreements which in any case the Palestinians have never respected.

"We have shown for too long a patience which no other Arab country has displayed to that extent. The Palestinian camps, having become extraterritorial, accepted no control by our security forces. Our borders being open to them, the Palestinians were able to arm themselves, train troops, receive foreign mercenaries, organize terrorist operations across Europe in Lebanon, prepare hijackings and even set up their own police and their own tribunals in our country. What Arab country has done as much for their cause?

"Despite everything, I am not afraid to say that while we condemn their abuses, we entertain no hatred against them, and, in particular, we have no religious motives in the conflicts that oppose us. What solution can be provided for their problem, which has become ours?

"It goes without saying that we do not want to throw them overboard or to oblige them by force to seek refuge elsewhere. However, we refuse to watch them establish themselves in the southern part of Lebanon whence they have now driven most of the population. We ask for a global solution to their just demands.

"The Palestinians are profoundly aware that they cannot rely on a war in order to impose their national solution. A war would only lead to new disasters for them and for the Arab world.

"Lebanon asks them first of all to accept disarmament which would safeguard the Lebanese State itself and which would make it possible to open negotiations about the Palestinians' future in a general atmosphere of detente.

"But we also expect the other Arab countries which are more richly endowed than we Lebanese with territory and natural wealth to relieve us of part of the intolerable burden of the Palestinian presence for us.

"And then, as in the past, the Palestinians in limited numbers, and not in armed gangs, would enjoy our hospitality until the day--which we hope will be soon--when they are fortunate enough to find themselves once again free in their homeland.

"For the moment, while denying that they are our enemies, they are a threat to our independence. Through them the Lebanese State and all its institutions have been jeopardized.

"The State of Israel was established at the Arabs' expense. No one denies that. Since its emergence, the attitude of Lebanon and in particular of the Lebanese Phalangists toward Israel has been that adopted by all the Arabs.

"Not without credit, for in this way Lebanon was sacrificing its own interests. It did cost most Arab League members much to implement, for instance, the strict rules of a boycott on all relations with people or companies maintaining industrial, commercial or financial links with Israel.

"This intransigence was expensive for Lebanon. It has been the same with all the decisions taken by the Arab world against Israel. Our country has faithfully applied them in full. No one can cite any Arab thesis regarding relations with Israel which we have failed to implement unreservedly.

"However, we have gradually noted an evolution in the ideas and feelings of the Arab governments and leaders regarding Israel. Today none of them refuses to recognize the existence of Israel as a member country of the United Nations and part of the east Mediterranean, and this was the case even before President as-Sadat of Egypt decided to break down the wall and to go directly to Jerusalem to start opening direct consultations with the Israeli leaders.

"At least 10 other Arab capitals were wondering how dialog could be established in order to achieve just peace on a firm foundation.

"Lebanon has participated in this evolution. It has been informed about the discreet talks, the informed contacts and the trips of high-ranking intermediaries between certain Arab countries and Tel Aviv.

"And so Lebanon has no difficulty in saying--particularly after a war provoked by the Palestinian which brought an invasion of its territory by the Israeli army--that it hopes that it will be possible, with the aid of the great powers and the United Nations, to reach a general settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict.

"Lebanon will be entitled to have a place, on an equal basis with the other countries which have been victims of the wars against Israel, at the table of this peace conference, wherever it is held."

NATIONALISTS CONFER WITH ARAB ARMY COMMANDERS

JN201929Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1834 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 20 April--The emergency committee created by the Central Political Council of the Nationalist and Progressive parties and forces held a meeting this evening with the commanders of the Arab army of Lebanon. The meeting reportedly dealt with the developments of the situation in the south, especially after some elements of the Arab army of Lebanon had taken control of An-Nabatiyah barracks in southern Lebanon.

ATTACK ON AN-NABATIYAH BARRACKS REPORTED

NC201713Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Apr 78 NC

[Text] The fifth branch of the army command has issued the following statement:

On the evening of 18 April 1978, some information was verified by the southern area military command. The information indicated that an armed group of civilian and military personnel intended to storm the An-Nabatiyah barracks, where an 18-man detachment is stationed. The task of the detachment was to safeguard the installations in the barracks in the wake of the Israeli occupation of the southern area. Despite the small size of the detachment, the inadequacy of its defense capabilities and the difficulty involved in coming to its aid, it set up a barrier under the command of 1st Lt Tawfiq at-Taqi with the assistance of 2d Lt Mahir at-Tufayli. The two officers succeeded in arresting a number of military personnel who had come from the 'Akkar area, after it became apparent that they were en route to an assembly point in An-Nabatiyah to participate in the armed attack against the barracks.

On the morning of 19 April 1978, the barracks was warned that it must surrender. The commander of the detachment, 1st Lt Ramzi Abu Hamzah, and his assistants 2d Lts Kazim Darwish, Ahmad Qasim and Salih Tulays, refused to heed the warning. As a result, an armed gang of civilian and military personnel attacked the barracks under the command of Maj Muhammad Salim, who comes from northern Lebanon. He was assisted by Sgt 'Abd al-Karim Salih.

In the evening the attackers entered the barracks. Despite the large number of attackers, the detachment in the barracks broke the siege and reached the Muhammad Zughayb barracks in Sidon. Because of this attack and because in such circumstances the powers of the army commander allow him to remand officers, noncommissioned officers and men to military justice and to dismiss noncommissioned officers and men, the following decision has been made:

1. To issue a search warrant for Maj Muhammad Salim, Sgt 'Abd al-Karim Salih and any other person whom the investigating authority brings before military justice.

2. To expel Sgt 'Abd al-Karim Salih from the army in accordance with Army Service Memorandum No 2,538, dated 20 April 1978.

3. To place all civilian and military personnel who participated in the crime at the disposal of the government commissioner to the military tribunal.

4. The army commander commends the bravery of the defenders of the An-Nabatiyah barracks under the command of 1st Lt Ramzi Abu Hamzah. He also affirms that he will apply all strict legal and military measures against anyone who contemplates perpetrating similar action in accordance with Article 123 of the Military Justice Law. This article stipulates that any member of the Lebanese armed forces who carries arms against Lebanon will be executed.

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS CLASHES IN SOUTH

NC210745Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 0615 GMT 21 Apr 78 NC

[Excerpts] Reports received from the south note that there were clashes last night among groups belonging to the Fatah organization. These clashes occurred in an area adjacent to the Litani between 'Adlun and Wadi (al-Jahil). During these clashes, at least five persons were killed and some others were wounded.

Abu Dawud has issued a circular stating that Yasir 'Arafat, as an act of provocation, has ordered the arrest of 140 men under Abu Dawud's command.

Preliminary reports note that the two sides are massing their forces against each other. The principal reason for these clashes is that a group under 'Arafat's command arrested Naji 'Allush, an official affiliated with Abu Dawud.

Reports from the south also note that, effective noon today, the Israeli forces, in view of the Jewish Passover, will close their barricades to the returning refugees and persons roving the area until next Monday.

In Tyre, the French commander issued an order banning the sale of araq, whisky and other alcoholic drinks near the barracks and has ordered his forces to confiscate any such goods.

Meanwhile, the UN forces stationed in the At-Tayyibah-Dayr Siryan area have reinforced their positions and have set up well over 10 barricades on the road between the two towns. Some of the Norwegian forces were seen crossing At-Tayyibah toward the eastern sector.

Sources of the UN forces in Tyre have stated that the Nepalese forces will be reinforced within the next 48 hours because they are deployed over a large area.

The Israeli air force yesterday flew numerous sorties over the Tyre and An-Nabatiyah areas after a number of flare bombs had been fired throughout the night.

Fabricated rumors were spread in Tripoli yesterday and some anarchists detonated explosive charges near the Mar Marun Church, the Catholic Club and other places, causing minor material damage involving the shattering of glass.

INFORMATION MINISTER GRANTS INTERVIEW TO ALGERIAN PAPER

JN202122Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Minister of Information Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has stressed that what we are facing in the Arab east is not aimed at us along but also at the entire Arab nation in both the east and west.

In an interview with the Algerian newspaper AL-JUMHRIYAH published today, the Syrian information minister stressed the role played by the front of confrontation and steadfastness in facing the dangers. He said the front is the vanguard of the Arab struggle and embodies the Arab masses aspirations for liberation and freedom. The Syrian minister further stated that the crisis facing the Arab nation at present is due to certain parties running after defeatist regionalism, to difficulties hindering activities toward unity and to pressures from big conspiracies. So far the conspiracies have been successful in isolating Egypt from the Arab nation and are now aiming to use it against the Arab nation. He further stated that the first goal of these conspiracies is to encircle, contain and exclude Syria from the struggle against Zionist expansion. The Syrian minister said that, because we are aware of this objective, we have raised the slogan of the strategic balance between Syria and the Zionist enemy to prepare ourselves for the worst possibilities, because Syria may be forced to enter the battle alone. If that happens, Syria must be capable of doing so.

The minister stressed the need to support Syria's steadfastness, because such support will show the national and real positions of the Arabs toward the Zionist-imperialist conspiracies. He further stated that, under the slogan of national activity, we in Syria have begun to organize our affairs and to build a strong Syria, capable with its own strength of serving itself and the Arab nation--something it will not be able to do if it is weak.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES YUGOSLAV YOUTH DELEGATION

JN191854Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Ba'th Party, at noon today received the delegation of the League of Socialist Youth of Yugoslavia headed by Azem Vlasi, president of the league. The meeting was attended by Comrade Faysal Summaq, chairman of the Youth of the Revolution Union in Syria.

The discussion at the meeting dealt with the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Ba'th Party and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, between the two peoples of the friendly countries and between the youth organizations in the two countries. It also dealt with the importance of cooperation between these two youth organizations in the interests of the common struggle of the two friendly countries.

The discussion also dealt with the current situation in the Arab area, the expansionist Zionist invasion of southern Lebanon and the continuation of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policy. It was stressed that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East cannot be attained except through the liberation of all the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian people's national rights.

ALGERIA

BOUMEDIENE RECEIVES FRENCH CP'S MARCHAIS

LD201918Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Text] President of the republic and of the Revolutionary Council, Houari Boumediene, received the secretary general of the French Communist Party, Georges Marchais, at noon today. The meeting comes at the end of his private visit to Algeria. The meeting was attended by the brothers Abdelaziz Bouteflika and Mohamed Saleh Yahiaoui. Boumediene and Marchais exchanged views on international issues, particularly those of interest to Africa. They also exchanged views on the recent developments in the Middle East. Afterwards, Georges Marchais had lunch with President Houari Boumediene.

Marchais' Activities Reported

LD201407Y Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 16 Apr 78 p 3 LD

[Text] Ghardaia--PCF Secretary General Georges Marchais arrived in Ghardaia at 1145 hours yesterday after traveling by road from Ouargla.

Mr Marchais was to visit the main tourist spots of the M'zab capital while in Ghardaia and also the cultural intrastructures.

In the morning Mr Marchais was the guest at a reception given in his honor by the Ghardaia district leader.

The PCF secretary general will leave Ghardaia on Sunday afternoon from Laghouat.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI INTERVIEWED BY PARIS MAGAZINE

LD210136Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Text] In an exclusive interview with the Paris Arabic language magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has stated that the Zionist enemy will not withdraw from the occupied Arab territory and will not halt his continued aggression against the Arab nation until he achieves his expansionist ambition of setting up a great Zionist racist state in the Arab area.

The Zionists, he said, will not feel reassured by whatever written pledges they are given, particularly since the Arab countries are in a state of constant change, and that the so-called peace agreement with the Egyptian president will be of no avail, particularly if this regime were to undergo a successful revolutionary upsurge which would burn all the papers of capitulation. The Zionists would then find themselves in the same difficult situation they were in before.

The brother colonel added: This means that if all the Arabs were to make all sorts of pledges and to sign these pledges with their thumbs and toes, the Zionists would not feel reassured and they would not halt their aggression because their objective is to establish a greater Zionist state in the Arab area.

In reply to a question about the possible formation of a unified Libyan-Egyptian command to face the Zionist enemy, the brother colonel said that the Jamahiriyah is ready to place its economic and strategic resources at the disposal of the Egyptian armed forces.

We are also ready to have a meeting between the commands of the two countries at As-Sallum if the shortage of these resources is being used as an excuse for capitulation.

He said that the Egyptian president has committed a historical error against the Arab cause and the Arab nation's struggle against the Zionist enemy for the sake of the recovery of its usurped rights and occupied territories. He has also disgraced it. But the Egyptian president wants to capitulate and to kneel before the Zionists, who have made aggression on the Arab rights.

In his statement to the magazine AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI, the brother colonel spoke of the current state of relations among the Arab countries. He said that these relations are passing through a bad stage and a division that portends an overwhelming Arab revolution which would change the map of the entire Arab homeland from the gulf to the ocean.

The brother colonel stated that the Arab nation possesses the human, material and strategic capabilities and can fight and resist the stubborn Zionist challenges which belittle the Arab nation, which is defending its dignity and freedom and fighting for the recovery of its rights.

In reply to a question about the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon, the brother colonel said that the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon was undoubtedly directed against the Palestinian people and resistance. But this took place in the territory of an Arab state. This led to complications for a number of the Arab countries which tried to send troops and material to the Palestinian resistance to deal with the aggression. But these forces and military equipment had to pass through the borders and across the territory of a country adjoining the scene of the fighting.

Speaking of the latest developments in some parts of the African Continent and the internal problems and frightful imperialist schemes they are being subjected to, the brother colonel said: We have exerted great efforts to solve these problems from within the African Continent. This is because we believe that Africa belongs to the Africans and that the solution of their domestic problems should be found by their own hands. It was because of this that the Jamahiriyah joined hands with its neighbors Niger, Sudan and Chad to solve the problem of the Chad and put an end to the civil war there.

The brother colonel said also that the basic motives of the Great 1 September Revolution were that it feels imperialist attempts are being made to impose guardianship over the African Continent and that imperialism is trying to lie in wait for the continent's peoples, exploiting problems and conflicts among the Africans and the continuation of these conflicts.

The Jamahiriyah has also succeeded in contributing to the solution of the problem of the Horn of Africa. It tried to persuade Somali President Siad Barre to withdraw his troops from the Ogaden region to ease the conflict among the Africans themselves and he responded. Withdrawal has actually taken place from that area. Thus we managed to pour water on the fire instead of pouring oil on it and intensifying it further. We will continue to march along this road until the Africans succeed in solving their own problems by themselves without any foreign imperialist interference in the affairs of the continent.

MOROCCO

INFORMATION MINISTER COMMENTS ON SYRIAN POLICIES

LD201504Y Rabat MAP in French 1100 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Text] Rabat--In reply to questions put by MAP following the declaration of the "steadfastness front" in Algeria, in particular on the subject of the section concerning support for the rights of the so-called Saharan people, Mr Mohamed Larbi Khattabi, Moroccan minister of information, expressed his astonishment at the attitude taken by Syria.

Mr Mohamed Larbi Khattabi wondered whether this new Syrian position is genuine and if the Damascus government has changed its political line toward Morocco and its territorial integrity, or if the Algerian regime has not once again resorted to trickery or put irresistible political pressure on the ministers of information in Algiers.

SUDAN

SOCIALIST UNION WELCOMES LONDON AGREEMENT

JN201540Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1435 GMT 20 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 April--At its meeting today chaired by President Numayri, the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Sudanese Socialist Union welcomed the important and national step achieved by the London agreement signed recently. The Politburo was briefed by Abu al-Kasim Hashim, Politburo member and People's Assembly speaker, on the contacts he held with Ash-Sharif Husayn al-Hindi in London in connection with the signing of the agreement.

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH LIBYAN, ALGERIAN ENVOYS

LD150342Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Apr 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Vice President Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim today received 'Abd al-Majid Bashir al-Ahmadi, Sudan's ambassador to Libya, before he assumes his post. "The developing relations between the two brotherly countries and the embassy's role in giving them an impetus were reviewed at the meeting."

Mr Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim also received Mr (Mabuth) Khalil, Algeria's charge d'affaires. "They discussed efforts to achieve Arab solidarity. His excellency also reviewed with the Algerian charge d'affaires the efforts being made by Sudan to end the Eritrean-Ethiopian dispute. The discussion also dealt with the problem of the Western Sahara."

LIBYAN AMBASSADOR COMMENTS ON RELATIONS WITH SUDAN

JN191843Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1727 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 April--'Abd al-Wahhab az-Zintani, ambassador of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Khartoum, stated today that the resumption of relations between Sudan and the Jamahiriyah is a natural thing, while their remaining severed was just the opposite. He further stated that the resumption of relations occurred through the initiative of both sides and that Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri and President al-Qadhdhafi had been eager to resume these relations.

The Libyan ambassador stressed that the Jamaniriyah is currently seeking to implement all previous economic agreements. He added that the two countries complement each other and confirmed the availability of job opportunities for Sudanese citizens in the Jamahiriyah. The Libyan ambassador mentioned the geographical and historical links between the two countries and stressed the attempts by the Sudanese and Libyan officials to revive previous projects between the two countries and to begin implementing them.

FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH ARAB AMBASSADORS

JN191748Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1652 GMT 19 Apr 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 19 April--Ar-Rashid at-Tahir, minister of foreign affairs, today discussed with the ambassadors of Libya, Algeria, Iraq and the PDRY ways to confront the dangerous developments in the Arab and African area.

Answering questions by the press fol owing the meeting, the Arab ambassadors spoke about their countries' positions on the efforts being exerted to hold an Arab summit conference. The Libyan ambassador stated that any Arab meeting must be prepared for by President Numayri; he must work to reconcile and bring closer together the Arabs' views on convening such a conference. The Algerian ambassador stated that his country has always supported Arab rapprochement. The Iraqi ambassador noted that his country considers the Palestinian cause as the crux of the Arab struggle. Iraq also believes that convening an Arab summit conference will not be that easy to achieve; it calls for mobilizing human, military and economic potentials for facing Israel. He further stated that to confront the Zionist enemy aggression, the conference will certainly be a success. [sentence as received]

TUNISIA

SUDANESE ENVOY CALLS ON PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA

LD130853Y Tunis L'ACTION in French 5 Apr 78 p 1 LD

[Text] The head of state yesterday received 'Izz ad-Din Hamid al-Hasan, minister of state of the Sudanese Council of Ministers and special envoy of President Ja'far Numayri, who gave the supreme combatant a written message from the Sudanese head of state. Moreover, President Bourguiba sent President Ahmed Sekou Toure a message concerning the summit in Monrovia which united the heads of state of Liberia, Gambia, Senegal, the Ivory Coast and Guinea.

WESTERN SAHARA

SAHARAN MILITARY COMMUNIQUE REPORTS ATTACKS

LD201912Y Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Apr 78 LD

[Summary] According to a Saharan military communique issued today, the Saharan Popular Liberation Army on 13, 14, 15 and 16 April attacked several positions held by the royalist Moroccan and Mauritanian invaders. They also attacked these forces in several other occupied positions, despite the intervention of the aggressor royalist air force, which most cowardly and savagely dropped napalm bombs. The fighting Saharan forces killed 56 invading soldiers and destroyed a considerable amount of enemy equipment.

DAYAN INTERVIEWED ABOUT HIS IMPENDING U.S. VISIT

TA202020Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Apr 78 TA

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan will leave for the United States next Tuesday. In the course of Dayan's talks in Washington, which will last 2 days, he will meet with Secretary of State Vance and other administration officials. The visit was formally agreed on in a talk between Mr Dayan and U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis which ended about an hour ago. The U.S. ambassador will also go to Washington on Tuesday to participate in the talks. Our political correspondent Elimelekh Ram talked with the foreign minister about his impending visit to the United States: [begin videotape]

[Question] Mr Dayan, what do you expect from your trip to the United States next week?

[Answer] I assume that one of the things will be the renewal of the negotiations, of the dialog, between the Americans and us about the declaration of principles. The negotiations about this have not ended and we have not yet reached--I hope it is possible to reach--an agreed formula. I assume this is one of the things. It is also possible that in the meantime the Americans are working out some additional proposal that is unknown to us, or that Mr Atherton will bring some new ideas from Egypt. However, I assume or rather, it is almost certain, that we should try to complete the work that we have started and not finished yet.

[Question] Does Israel have a new proposal or new ideas?

[Answer] No, not substantive. The last meeting concluded with the Americans handing us a draft proposal for this formula of the declaration of principles. We, in return, gave them our proposal. The gap is not wide but we did not try to bridge it; therefore, we will pick up where we stopped.

[Question] Mr Dayan, is it only by accident that the U.S. offer or invitation came after Israel defined or clarified information lines concerning Resolution 242?

[Answer] There is no connection between the two. I was in fact invited about a week or 10 days ago but the U.S. secretary of state then had only 1 day at his disposal since he was busy with African matters. In the meantime his additional visit to Africa seems to have been postponed and he will have more time at his disposal and therefore the invitation came now. There is no connection though between the date or the renewal of the invitation and our clarification with regard to Resolution 242.

[Question] Is one of the objectives of the visit to prepare for the prime minister's visit in the United States?

[Answer] I think that the prime minister's visit has been prepared for. I have reason to believe that he will also be invited by the U.S. President for a visit. No further preparations on my part are necessary. It is natural that what we will discuss at the State Department will be raised before the prime minister's visit or immediately upon his arrival in the United States.

[Ram] Thank you, Mr Dayan. [end videotape]

Our correspondent adds that it is possible that Mr Dayan will wait in the United States until Mr Begin arrives. The prime minister will leave for New York on 30 April. Mr Begin is to go to the United States for the 30th anniversary celebrations for the State of Israel and will probably meet with President Carter although no official invitation has been received yet from the U.S. President.

HAZOFE QUESTIONS REASONS FOR BEGIN-CARTER MEETING

TA201422Y Tel Aviv HAZOFE in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] According to reports from Washington a meeting is expected between President Jimmy Carter and Prime Minister Menahem Begin during the latter's visit to the United States on the occasion of the opening of Israel's 30th anniversary festivities. From Israel's point of view, the question should be asked: What is the purpose of this meeting? A meeting between heads of state is held at a certain stage after preliminary talks if there is a purpose.

Unfortunately, the last meeting between the two men induced a heavy atmosphere. The impression was that the U.S. President used it to berate Israel's prime minister. As could have been expected, the prime minister stood up to the pressures. However, there is no need to hold a meeting which will be a repeat of what happened a month ago. One should recall that those difficult talks had the ill result of creating an unfavorable atmosphere in world and U.S. public opinion. Reports about difficult talks and an atmosphere of crisis, accompanied by leaks from the U.S. administration about Israel's intransigence are exploited by Israel's enemies to blacken its image.

Israel must certainly continue its dialog with the United States, which is, after all, its friend, and shares common interests with us. However, in the course of such a dialog there is no need to hold summit meetings in a tense atmosphere when there is no specific purpose for such meetings. From the point of view of Israel, such a meeting should not be encouraged now. If the U.S. administration does see a purpose in such a meeting, the subjects and possible results of the meeting should be well outlined before it is officially decided upon.

'AL HAMISHMAR: DISMAY IN JERUSALEM ABOUT U.S. MOVES

TA201500Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 1 TA

[By Dalya Cheberi]

[Text] There has been dissatisfaction in the prime minister's office about the manner in which the United States is maintaining contacts with Israel regarding political negotiations. Although the United States consults with Israel from time to time as, for example, in the case of the renewal of Atherton's mission in the region, it ultimately acts according to its own views, without taking Israel into consideration.

This U.S. tendency was particularly prominent last week. Despite reservations voiced by Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan in their talk a week ago with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis regarding the renewal at this stage of roving ambassador Alfred Atherton's mission, the United States announced his coming to the region. The U.S. announcement said that after his talks in Cairo, Atherton was likely to come to Jerusalem.

Yesterday and the day before other reports were received in Jerusalem that Atherton would return from Cairo directly to Washington, in order to receive there next week with Secretary of State Vance, Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Ostensibly, the Americans will thus implement an earlier plan--which was deferred--to talk with Dayan in Washington before Begin's arrival. The plan could materialize now due to an abbreviation of Vance's trip outside the United States.

At the prime minister's office, however, it is unofficially claimed that the Americans have worked out an "incomprehensible" plan from the point of view of the Israeli timetables. Dayan will apparently meet with Vance on Wednesday or Thursday next week, on the 26th or 27th, while the prime minister is to depart for the United States on 30 April.

Since the prime minister will be in the United States close to the date the administration slated for the talks with Dayan--the prime minister's office is hard put to understand why the prime minister's plans are being ignored. It is claimed that if Atherton's trip from Cairo to Jerusalem has been cancelled, then the purpose of his trip to Cairo is not clear, as U.S.-Egyptian high-level contacts were maintained with Secretary of State Vance's stopover in Egypt this week.

One of the possibilities mentioned is that Atherton will take to Egypt a modified U.S. draft proposal of the declaration of principles, to hear comments and present it later to Israel. It was pointed out in Jerusalem yesterday that there is no information about such a plan. Until yesterday no meetings had been scheduled for Dayan or Begin in the United States.

MA'ARIV SUGGESTS U.S. VICE CONSUL BE SENT FROM ISRAEL

TA201338Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 5 TA

[Editorial: "Goodbye, Mr Hull"]

[Text] It is an old custom in the Soviet diplomatic service to plant agents in the guise of diplomats and employees in foreign legations. There is virtually no country in the West in which an attache or junior secretary has not been caught spying; and even where one has not yet been caught his existence and presence is not doubted.

Has the time come to congratulate the U.S. foreign service on having adopted this Soviet system?

The deed of U.S. Vice Consul in Jerusalem Edmund Hull, who was caught in a military camp in Samaria to which he had come to collect information on settlements and settlers, is exceptional not only from the aspect of diplomatic politesse but also from the aspect of elementary commonsense. If this was a private initiative, then he deserves a severe reprimand; if he was on an official mission then it is to be hoped that his superiors will realize that they cannot ingratiate themselves in this way.

Consuls have defined jobs which do not include political activity. The job should certainly not serve as a cover for fumbled spying activities of the kind in which Edmund Hull failed. The diplomatic passport might, perhaps, defend him in the face of legal recriminations for trespassing but it is doubtful whether it will cover the scorn which he and his behavior arouse.

The very existence of a U.S. consul in Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, is an anachronistic remnant of the days of the divided city; and the Israeli Government has gone out of its way to allow the continued activity of this consulate even after the unification of the city and the justification for its existence ceased. It is no secret that its activity exceeds the city limits and also the limits of the understanding by which consulates function.

This latest incident has gone beyond anything that the Israeli Government has tolerated until now. It appears that the Americans would do well to put a discreet end to Mr Hull's service in Israel as quickly as possible.

HA'AREZ COMMENTS ON USE OF CLUSTER BOMBS

TA201540Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 11 TA

[Ze'ev Schiff commentary]

[Excerpts] When the U.S. complaint was lodged against the Israeli violation of the agreement regarding the use of cluster bombs against terrorist targets in Lebanon, it raised many an eyebrow at the highest political and military levels in Israel. Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman told his U.S. interlocutor that he did not know about the limitations in the use of cluster bombs. Later he told his associates that Chief of Staff Mordekhay Gur should have informed him of these limitations when he had asked approval for details of the operation.

Since Weizman confirmed that the air force had indeed been using cluster bombs, the IDF spokesman was instructed--after several days of imposed silence--to confirm that such bombs had been dropped on artillery positions that had been shelling settlements. At the same time a search was undertaken in the files of the prime minister's office, to find the document in which the limitations are mentioned. Eli Mizrahi, who had been the head of the office of former Prime Minister Yizhaq Rabin, found Ambassador Dinitz' letter on this subject dated December 1976.

At the beginning of that letter, which followed rumors indicating that Israel was using cluster bombs at the beginning of that year, it says that Washington deems it necessary to specify clear limitations for their use. Various versions have been made public regarding those limitations, such as: use only for defensive purposes or only in the course of a full-scale war against more than one country. It seems that those who formulated the letter of limitation went out of their way to make every effort to bar the possibility of using this weapon against terrorists.

The limitation says that the use of cluster bombs is permitted only in the case of "all-out hostile activities against regular military forces." Had this been the only limitation, the bombs could have been used during a war of attrition, such as the one that had been conducted for 17 months along the Suez Canal. It appears, however, that the formulator of the letter had been aware of this and added that what was referred to was a large-scale operation, "such as the operations in 1967 and 1973." As this too was deemed insufficient, the kinds of targets against which cluster bombs can be used were also added: "only against military targets, such as are not located in civilian population centers or near them."

In other words, if anyone wished to conform to the letter and spirit of those limitations, it is doubtful whether he could use these cluster bombs in the very frontline, even if it were in an unpopulated desert. Clearly, from Washington's point of view, this is not a weapon to be used against terrorists and their targets.

The Americans are explaining, unofficially, that their sensitivities were not awakened just now, when the Likud is in office. The proof, according to them, is the referent letter, which was sent to Israel in December 1976. This is true, but what cannot be ignored is the emphasis with which the issue was presented this time. Then the complaint was not made public, whereas this time the feeling is that various elements in the United States are trying to waylay Israel.

This time Washington did not make do with another run-of-the-mill letter, but demanded that Israel's political level shoulder the responsibility, so that all army ranks become aware of the limitations. Some people see in this the conclusion of the issue, but this is clearly not so. This is the first time that a U.S. Senator (who was known in the past as a supporter of Israeli requests for arms), Paul McCloskey, suggested that if Israel uses cluster bombs against civilian targets (those were his words), the delivery of all weapons to Israel would be stopped.

It is my view, therefore, that an important conclusion should be drawn from the cluster bomb issue. Israel must make an effort and produce such bombs on its own. Israel's technicians and scientists have confronted more delicate problems and are confronting them today. This is primarily a technological problem, and even if the Israeli bombs are not as well-made as the U.S. bombs, Israel will be freer in its defense against terrorists. It would be advisable to expedite this initiative and even declare it publicly, to make it known that future use of cluster bombs against terrorist targets will not necessarily involve a violation of Israeli commitments.

YADIN CRITICAL OF NEW INFORMATION GUIDELINES

TA201610Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 2 TA

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister Yiga'el Yadin stated to the prime minister and to the foreign minister his reservations about the formula of the information guidelines regarding the applicability of Resolution 242, which has been sent by the Foreign Ministry to Israeli missions abroad.

Professor Yadin claims the cabinet agreed to accord the guidelines a positive character, namely, to demonstrate Israel's willingness to discuss with all neighboring countries the principles of Resolution 242, while in actual fact the guidelines open with a negative tenor: they reject a territorial compromise or an addition of words to Resolution 242.

This correspondent points out that a debate took place between the prime minister and the foreign minister about the placement of the paragraphs, at the end of which Mr Begin's view was adopted: the change in Israel's stance, which stresses Israel's readiness to negotiate with Jordan, is included in the third paragraph, and not in the first.

The DMC platform calls for a territorial compromise, while the information guidelines reject this.

Professor Yadin makes do with stating his reservations. He does not intend to adopt further measures. The reason for this, according to circles in the DMC: the information guidelines are an internal document, whereas the cabinet policy is reflected in the draft declaration of principles submitted by Israel and in which, according to DMC members, is expressed willingness to conduct negotiations in accordance with the principles of 242, which include a withdrawal from territories.

SHARON ON SETTLEMENTS, BEDOUIN DEMONSTRATION

TA201533Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 20 Apr 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] The report that operative decisions concerning the establishment of settlements in the territories have been transferred from the Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs to the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs is false, says Agriculture Minister Ari'el Sharon.

Minister Sharon stated that he regards very seriously what he termed an intentional effort from within the government to disrupt the normal function of the executive power and sabotage the settlements cause. An hour ago, our correspondent in the south Shemu'el Tal talked to Minister Sharon. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Sharon, sources in the prime minister's office today confirmed yesterday's report that you, as chairman of the Committee for Settlement Affairs, no longer have a say in the operative decisions regarding settlements in the territories. What is your reaction to that report?

[Answer] I think that first of all one should correct the facts. No change in authority has been made. All the authority given to the Joint Zionist Executive and Governmental Committee for Settlement has remained exactly as it was, so that the source of the report is wrong. What seems grave to me is that circles, and in my opinion in this case specifically circles from within the government, have been issuing reports that are unfounded which, I would say, are intended for internal aims.

As to the substantial issue--there is no basis for this report. Yesterday, the prime minister issued a fierce denial, and all the authority remained in force as always, and the ways of operation have also remained as before.

[Question] A bedouin demonstration was held yesterday near the Knesset. Among other things, they also demanded an end to the activities of the green patrol, which in their opinion, is plotting against them and leaves them bereft of means of sustenance. As minister of agriculture, you are, among other things, in charge of the activities of the green patrol. What do you have to say about the demands made during the demonstration?

[Answer] The green patrol operates legally, it was established by the previous government and is intended to help maintain law and order. There is no room for this claim. I think the efforts made to help the bedouins go far beyond what has been customary in the past. Indeed, occasionally the previous government did things for the bedouins, but mainly, I would say, when election time grew close.

[Question] Yesterday there was yet another report on the government company established with the aim of purchasing lands from Arabs, lands in territories beyond the green line.

[Answer] There is no basis for this report. I read it myself in the paper. I know nothing about it. I cannot add anything to it. It is simply something that is totally unfounded.

[Question] According to you, we are dealing with a report that is basically denied, or perhaps the fact of the establishment of the company has not been brought to your attention.

[Answer] The report is unfounded. I would say it was referring to the Israel Land Administration, of which I am in charge. Nothing of the kind was established, such a thing does not exist and the report has no basis.

IDF RADIO BOOSTER TO BE ERECTED IN ELAT

TA2015Z6Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 20 Apr 78 p 12 TA

[Text] Following a public struggle of many years, a booster of the IDF radio will soon be erected in the region of Elat. Yesterday engineers came to the town to find a place to construct the amplifying transmitter. Apparently within 6 months it will be possible to receive IDF radio broadcasts in Elat and in its vicinity.

PAKISTAN

FORMER MINISTER DENIES SECRET KASHMIR UNDERSTANDING

BK2101233Y Hong Kong AFP in English 1223 GMT 20 Apr 78 BK

[Text] Islamabad April 20 (AFP)--Former Pakistan Foreign Minister Aziz Ahmed last night denied the statement by Indian Foreign Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in Parliament Tuesday that former Indian and Pakistani prime ministers Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto had reached "some sort of a secret understanding" on Kashmir during the 1972 summit talks at Simla.

He said Mr Vajpayee's statement was based on misinformation. He added, "I was personally deeply involved in the negotiations at Simla at all levels, from official to the highest, and I am fully aware of Mr Bhutto's conversations with Mrs Gandhi. I should like to make it clear that there was no, repeat no understanding or agreement, secret or otherwise, between the two prime ministers beyond what is set out in the clearest terms in the Simla pact."

Indian Foreign Minister Vajpayee's statement about the alleged secret Bhutto-Indira understanding on Kashmir was widely published in the Pakistani press and evoked editorial comments in several national dailies.

INDIA

VAJPAYEE: GANDHI, BHUTTO MADE SECRET DEAL AT SIMLA

BK1816302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Apr 78 BK

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee, asserted in the Lok Sabha today that Mrs Indira Gandhi had some sort of secret understanding with Mr Bhutto, the former prime minister of Pakistan, at Simla in 1972.

Replying to a 6-hour debate on the budget demands of his ministry, Mr Vajpayee reaffirmed the nation's commitment to the policy of nonalinement and keeping the Indian Ocean free of all foreign bases. The house later passed the demands after rejecting cut motions by voice vote.

Mr Vajpayee's assertion of a secret understanding between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bhutto evoked strong protests from the opposition benches who demanded that he should place the relevant documents on the table of the house. Several points of order in support and against this demand were raised by members lasting for nearly 1 hour. After hearing the minister, the speaker reserved his ruling on this.

Mr Vajpayee said since taking over as minister of external affairs, he had had occasion to go through various documents relating to the Simla talks. He had also had discussions with a large number of knowledgeable individuals. Piecing together all the evidence, he said, he cannot but reaffirm that a secret understanding was reached by Mrs Gandhi in a confidential conversation with Mr Bhutto before the Simla pact was signed. He said that, in drawing attention to this, he was looking at it as an internal matter. As for external matter, India continues to maintain the broad parameters of its foreign policy, and we have accepted in letter and spirit the Simla agreement. Rejecting the demand that papers relating to the secret understanding should be disclosed, Mr Vajpayee said it will not be in the public interest.

Reacting strongly to the allegation that the Janata government followed a policy of sell-out, Mr Vajpayee said there can be no more blatant falsehood. India is not so cheap that somebody can purchase her, he declared amidst cheers.

Reviewing the performance of last year, he said India has never enjoyed, since 1962, such prestige in the world as it does today. India now enjoys the greatest credibility in all the world capitals.

Referring to the improved relations with our neighbors, Mr Vajpayee said India's policy has raised a vision of regional stability. Mr Vajpayee informed the house that India at present is engaged in consultations with Afghanistan for the preparation of the meeting of the nonalined bureau of Kabul. This would be followed by a meeting of the foreign ministers of all the nonalined countries in Belgrade.

During the resumed debate, the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] member, Mr Somnath Chatterjee, and the Janata member, Mr H.V. Kamath, congratulated Mr Vajpayeee's handling of the foreign relations. Mr Kamath wanted to know whether any communication has been received from China on the border issue after the recent statement of Mr Morarji Desai.

While Mr Ramprakash Tripathi, Janata, appreciated the government's efforts to make Hindi one of the languages at the UN, Mr (Mataher), All-India Anna-DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhgham], said that undue stress is being laid on the use of Hindi and might prove a hindrance to the non-Hindi people.

Drhimaotlnelronian Swamy, Janata, wanted a fresh appraisal of the foreign policy.

Mr Chandrapan, CPI, said India will not gain anything by making friends with the United States.

Mr C.M. Stephen, Congress-I, wanted Mr Vajpayee to come out with details of the alleged deal between Mrs Gandhi and Mr Bhutto. Others who took part in the debate were Mr Krishna Kant, Mr Ratan Singh Rapda, Mr Ram Jethmalani, Mr L.C. Jain, Mr Balwant Singh Ramuwalia, Mr Balbir Singh, Mr Srikrishna Singh, all Janata; Mr K.P. Unikrishnan, Congress; Mr U.S. Patil, PWP [Peasants and Workers Party]; Mr P.G. Malvenkar, Independent; and Mr Chitta Basu, Forward Bloc.

CARTER DECISION ON NEUTRON BOMB CRITICIZED

BK190719Y Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 11 Apr 78 p 5 BK

[Editorial: "Neutron Bomb"]

[Text] By deciding to defer production of the neutron bomb, President Carter has not conferred a boom on humanity. First, no neutron bomb was necessary to add to the existing weapons of destruction. Secondly, Mr Carter has only left open the option of installing neutron warheads on NATO artillery and has ordered the Pentagon to continue modernising NATO's weapons so that they could be later fitted with neutron warheads if NATO so decided. Mr Carter's decision is linked to future Soviet action. The Soviet Union has not taken any step which affects the security of the United States or of Western Europe. But Mr Carter, like all modern U.S. Presidents, is too conscious of the security not only of the United States but of Western Europe and, unable to make up his mind, has given the veto to Western Europe, though Western Europe has been hesitant and is not likely to use its veto for the neutron bomb, which is to be used on European soil, fearing retaliatory steps. Mr Carter may be impelled by two reasons for self-restraint: He might not like to poison the atmosphere for the forthcoming UN special session on disarmament and spoil the chance of a summit meeting with President Brezhnev. There are, of course, pressures in Congress. The Democratic majority leader in the Senate, Mr Robert Byrd, has written to Mr Carter warning him that the Senate might not ratify a future SALT agreement, if the neutron bomb were scrapped without a Soviet quid pro quo.

This is a strange way of negotiating for any stage of disarmament. First a nation produces a new weapon and asks others to make a concession. At this rate, there can be no end to negotiations. There can only be retaliation and counterretaliation. Dr Brezezinski, Mr Carter's national security adviser, and Mr Brown, defence secretary, are also insisting on a concession. It is not clear what weapons the Soviet Union is expected to abandon as a concession. For Mr Brezhnev's accusation that the United States is stalling on arms control for political reasons, there is a strong basis. The one weapon which capitalist countries have been afraid of is communism. No nuclear arms can counter its spread or contain it. This political reason has governed both the rapid growth of armaments and the slow progress of disarmament since the last world war, and the other related political reasons which Mr Brezhnev has in mind, in spite of the reiteration of peaceful coexistence, are related to it. Mr Carter is not free to decide; he can only delay a decision. He is a prisoner of the State Department, the Pentagon, Congress, West Europe and the armaments industry. But there are other powerful parties as well.

Mr Brezhnev, in any case, cannot be ignored, and he has rejected Mr Carter's neutron bomb bargaining from the Pacific. The speech he has delivered on board a Soviet cruiser off Vladivostock is uncompromising and accuses Mr Carter of using the neutron bomb as a bargaining chip to reduce the Soviet arsenal in central Europe even before the U.S. decision to defer production of the bomb was announced. According to him, the United States is delaying agreement on strategic arms limitation for political reasons. The Carter administration has been indecisive and inconsistent not only to Mr Brezhnev but to NATO critics. Mr Carter's proposition that the incorporation of enchanced radiation features into modernised battlefield weapons will be made later according to Soviet restraint in conventional and nuclear arms is not the best way of evoking response or cooperation. Mr Brezhnev sees no bargaining point in this. He insists that the United States must make a "clearcut refusal to manufacture neutron weapons." The only proposition to which the Soviet Union can agree is that it too will not make the neutron bomb. No other unrelated issues will be allowed to be linked to this issue of the latest threat to mankind. NATO countries which hope for a tradeoff are as wrong as U.S. security and defence officials.

The SALT talks, for instance, cannot be linked to other issues, to what happens in Africa or elsewhere. By talking of a Soviet buildup, British sources are only clever and misleading. Mr Vance, U.S. secretary of state, is to visit Moscow this month, and it is hoped that he will clear misunderstanding and prepare the way for successful negotiations on the next stage of SALT. It is not clear why the United States is concerned over Soviet policies in Africa. It seems the lessons of Vietnam have not been learnt Wherever there is a struggle for liberation, Soviet sympathies are there, and that itself should not alarm the United States. It is open to the United States too to take interest in liberation struggles. Unfortunately, she is generally on the wrong side till it is too late. On the neutron bomb, as from the first atom bomb onwards, she has again taken a false step.

PATRIOT COMMENTS ON INDIA-PAKISTAN SALAL DAM AGREEMENT

BK201315Y Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 Apr 78 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Salal Accord"]

[Text] The Indo-Pakistan agreement on the Salal Dam signed Friday [14 April] has closed a long chapter of negotiations on a note of mutual goodwill.

Considering that the agreement is in no essential respect different from the understanding informally reached in October, 1976--before the Janata Party took over the government in India and the martial law administration in Pakistan--much time could have been saved without any loss to either side if that understanding had been acted upon earlier. But better late than never. The most welcome aspect of the latest round of negotiations was that it ended in satisfaction to both sides without the intervention of "neutral experts," which would have only meant foreign interference in the affairs of two neighbours. India has always favoured the principle of bilateralism, except when a situation gets out of hand. And, there is no dispute between India and Pakistan which the two cannot settle amicably. The Simla agreement is being fulfilled in a continuous process of normalisation of relations without any outside help.

Under the Salal agreement, the proposed dam across the Chenab River, about 64 km from the Pakistan border, will help India generate an average 150 mw of electricity. It will allow water to flow over the turbines without being stored in any reservoir; the water will run along its natural channel into Pakistan territory without any shrinkage in quantity. India will not use any water for irrigation purposes, and the design of the hydroelectric project will ensure that neither side suffers if at any time hositilities break out between the two countries.

Mr Agha Shahi has said in Islamabad, on his return there from New Delhi, that the agreement safeguards the interest of Pakistan, and Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee has assured Parliament that adequate provisions have been made to meet any unforeseen emergency.

It may not always be easy to achieve such a satisfactory agreement. Mr Agha Shahi has suggested as much at his press conference in New Delhi and in his later statement in Islamabad. He said in Delhi that the extent of the progress of normalisation was "undoubtedly linked" to a settlement on Kashmir, and emphasized in Islamabad that a "just solution" of the Kashmir issue was "imperative" for complete normalisation. He has also attributed, though in milder terms, aspirations of leadership and hegemony to India. The trouble with the leaders of Pakistan is that, consciously or unconsciously, they play into the hands of neocolonial and hegemonic powers, which makes them live in a world of make-believe. They have not yet understood that their claim on Kashmir is dead and buried, and any reference to the Simla agreement or any stupid speculation about a secret deal between Mrs Indira Gandhi and Mr Z.A. Bhutto is totally irrelevant. The Simla accord did nothing but keep the door open for Pakistan to talk about Kashmir if it liked--and no agreement can obviously prevent this. But it is better to understand things as they are and give up claiming territories or making baseless allegations about leadership ambitions. The spirit of goodwill created by the Simla agreement and now by the Salal accord should be nurtured with a sense of realism.

SRI LANKA

SRI LANKA, MALDIVES FOREIGN MINISTERS HOLD TALKS

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[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr A.C.S. Hameed, has held talks with the Maldivian foreign minister, Mr Fathulla Jameel, on closer economic cooperation, particularly in the field of trade. The talks were also aimed at forging closer understanding between Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

During the talks between the two foreign ministers, Mr Jameel also sought Sir Lanka's assistance to streamline the Maldivian Foreign Ministry, which was set up recently.

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